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NEWS RELEASE

Jan. 27, 2009

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UM PANEL DISCUSSES RACIAL, GENDER IDENTITY IN THE OVAL OFFICE

MISSOULA –

What does it mean that a black man now lives in the White House? A University of Montana forum – “The White (?) House: Race, Gender and the Presidency” – will explore that question at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11, in Music Building Room 115.

The forum is free and open to the public. African American studies, Native American studies and political science faculty members will make opening presentations, after which the audience will be invited to discuss the implications of President Barack Obama’s election to office. A reception will follow.

Assistant Professor Tobin Miller Shearer, coordinator of UM’s African American Studies Program, will moderate the discussion. Shearer organized the forum at what he calls an opportune moment. “This is the ideal time to reflect on changes and continuities in this country’s racial history,” he said.

Panel members include Professors Christopher Muste and Robert Saldin from the Political Science Department. Muste worked as a senior polling analyst at The Washington Post during the 2004 general election, and Saldin is a specialist in U.S. political history.

They will be joined by African American studies and Native American studies Professor George Price and Native American studies Professor Kathryn Shanley. Price has

challenged students to examine their assumptions about racial identities during his decade-long tenure at UM, and Shanley is a nationally recognized author.

For more information call Shearer at 406-243-6225 or e-mail tobin.shearer@umontana.edu.

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